

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, in an integrated circuit (IC) of a data processing system having at least one host processor and host memory, comprising:
 - a chip interconnect;
 - a memory controller for controlling the host memory comprising DRAM memory, the memory controller coupled to the chip interconnect;
 - a scalar processing unit coupled to the chip interconnect, the scalar processing unit being capable of executing instructions to perform scalar data processing;
 - a vector processing unit coupled to the chip interconnect, the vector processing unit being capable of executing instructions to perform vector data processing; and
 - an input and output (I/O) interface coupled to the chip interconnect, the I/O interface receiving/transmitting data from/to the scalar and/or vector processing units.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a switch mechanism coupled the chip interconnect and coupled to the scalar processing unit and coupled to the vector processing unit, the switch mechanism operable to receive multiple media data stream from the I/O interface and dispatch the multiple media data stream to the scalar processing unit and/or the vector processing unit.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
 - multiple scalar processing units, the multiple scalar processing units being capable of executing instructions to perform scalar processing simultaneously; and

multiple vector processing units, the multiple vector processing units being capable of executing instructions to perform vector processing simultaneously.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising multiple scalar processing units of a kind and multiple vector processing unit of a kind.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a general purpose register (GPR) file coupled to the scalar processing unit;
 - a vector register (VR) file coupled to the vector processing unit; and
 - a load and store unit (LSU), the LSU being capable of executing instructions to load and store scalar data from and to the GPR, and the LSU being capable of executing instructions to load and store vector data from and to the VR.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a memory location coupled to the chip interconnect, wherein the LSU loads and stores data from and to the memory location.
7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a direct memory access (DMA) engine, the DMA engine transferring the multiple media data between the memory location and the host memory.
8. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the LSU is capable of executing instructions to load and store various formats of scalar and vector data, wherein the various formats comprise 8-bit, 16-bit, and 32-bit formats.
9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch mechanism comprises an instruction unit (IUNIT), the IUNIT controlling and dispatching instructions simultaneously.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the instructions comprise very long instruction word (VLIW) instructions.
11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the IUNIT further comprises:
 - a program counter;
 - a branch unit, wherein the program counter and the branch unit determine the location to fetch next instructions;
 - an instruction cache memory, the instruction cache memory comprising instruction cache tag and data memories for buffering instructions transmitted from the host memory; and
 - at least one memory mapped registers accessible by the host.
12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the scalar processing unit comprises:
 - an integer arithmetic and logic unit (IALU), the IALU being capable of executing instructions to perform simple scalar integer arithmetic and logical operations; and
 - an integer shift unit (ISHU), the ISHU being capable of executing instructions to perform scalar bit shifting and rotating operations;
13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the scalar processing unit further comprises a floating point unit (FPU), the FPU being capable of executing instructions to perform high precision scalar data processing.
14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vector processing unit comprises:

a vector permute unit (VPU), the VPU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector permute operations;

a vector simple integer unit (VSIU), the VSIU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector simple integer arithmetic and logical operations;

a vector complex integer unit (VCIU), the VCIU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector complex integer arithmetic operations; and

a vector look-up table unit (VLUT), the VLUT being capable of executing instructions to perform at least one vector table look-up.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the vector processing unit further comprises a vector floating point unit (VFPU), the VFPU being capable of executing instructions to perform high precision vector data processing.
16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the VLUT comprises a memory location storing at least one look-up table (LUT).
17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein data of the LUT are transferred from the host memory to the memory location through a direct memory access (DMA) operation.
18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the memory location comprises a static random access memory (SRAM).
19. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the scalar and vector processing units are capable of performing data processing autonomously and asynchronously to the host processor.

a scalar processing unit coupled to the chip interconnect, the scalar processing unit performing scalar data processing on the data; and
a vector processing unit coupled to the chip interconnect, the vector processing unit performing vector data processing on the data.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising multiple scalar processing units performing scalar data processing simultaneously and multiple vector processing units performing vector data processing simultaneously.
27. The method of claim 25, further comprising:
dispatching the data to the scalar processing unit if the data require scalar data processing; and
dispatching the data to the vector processing unit if the data require vector data processing.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein the dispatching is performed by a switch mechanism coupled to the chip interconnect, the switch mechanism receiving the data from the I/O interface.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the switch mechanism comprises an instruction unit (IUNIT), the IUNIT being capable of decoding the data.
30. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
a general purpose register (GPR) file coupled to the scalar processing unit;
a vector register (VR) file coupled to the vector processing unit;
a special purpose register (SPR) coupled to the chip interconnect; and

a load and store unit (LSU), the LSU being capable of executing instructions to load and store scalar data from and to the GPR, and the LSU being capable of executing instructions to load and store vector data from and to the VR.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising a memory location coupled to the chip interconnect, wherein the LSU loads and stores data from and to the memory location.
32. The method of claim 31, further comprising transferring the data between the memory location and the host memory, through a direct memory access (DMA) operation.
33. The method of claim 24, wherein the scalar processing unit comprises:
 - an integer arithmetic and logic unit (IALU), the IALU being capable of executing instructions to perform simple scalar integer arithmetic and logical operations;
 - an integer shift unit (ISHU), the ISHU being capable of executing instructions to perform scalar bit shifting and rotating operations; and
 - a floating point unit (FPU), the FPU being capable of executing instructions to perform high precision scalar data processing.
34. The method of claim 24, wherein the vector processing unit comprises:
 - a vector permute unit (VPU), the VPU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector permute operations;
 - a vector simple integer unit (VSIU), the VSIU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector simple integer arithmetic and logical operations;
 - a vector complex integer unit (VCIU), the VCIU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector complex integer arithmetic operations;

a vector look-up table unit (VLUT), the VLUT being capable of executing instructions to perform at least one vector table look-up; and
a vector floating point unit (VFPU), the VFPU being capable of executing instructions to perform high precision vector data processing.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the VLUT comprises a memory location storing at least one look-up table (LUT).
36. The method of claim 35, further comprising transferring data of the LUT from the host memory to the memory location, through a direct memory access (DMA) operation.
37. The method of claim 24, wherein the scalar data processing and vector data processing are performed autonomously and asynchronously to the host processor.
38. The method of claim 25, wherein the scalar processing unit and the vector processing unit communicate with the host processor through an interrupt mechanism.
39. The method of claim 25, wherein the scalar processing unit and the vector processing unit are accessible by the host processing through a set of memory mapped addresses.
40. An apparatus, in an integrated circuit (IC) having a chip interconnect, of a data processing system having at least one host processor and a host memory, the apparatus comprising:
means for receiving data stream from an input/output (I/O) interface coupled to the chip interconnect;

means for examining the data to determine whether the data require scalar data processing or vector data processing;

means for performing scalar data processing on the data in the IC, if the data require scalar data processing; and

means for performing vector data processing on the data in the IC, if the data require vector data processing.

41. The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:

a scalar processing unit coupled to the chip interconnect, the scalar processing unit performing scalar data processing on the data; and

a vector processing unit coupled to the chip interconnect, the vector processing unit performing vector data processing on the data.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising multiple scalar processing units performing scalar data processing simultaneously and multiple vector processing units performing vector data processing simultaneously.

43. The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising:

means for dispatching the data to the scalar processing unit if the data require scalar data processing; and

means for dispatching the data to the vector processing unit if the data require vector data processing.

44. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the dispatching is performed by a switch mechanism coupled to the chip interconnect, the switch mechanism receiving the data from the I/O interface.

45. The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the switch mechanism comprises an instruction unit (IUNIT), the IUNIT being capable of decoding the data.
46. The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:
 - a general purpose register (GPR) file coupled to the scalar processing unit;
 - a vector register (VR) file coupled to the vector processing unit;
 - a special purpose register (SPR) coupled to the chip interconnect; and
 - a load and store unit (LSU), the LSU being capable of executing instructions to load and store scalar data from and to the GPR, and the LSU being capable of executing instructions to load and store vector data from and to the VR.
47. The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a memory location coupled to the chip interconnect, wherein the LSU loads and stores data from and to the memory location.
48. The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising means for transferring the data between the memory location and the host memory, through a direct memory access (DMA) operation.
49. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the scalar processing unit comprises:
 - an integer arithmetic and logic unit (IALU), the IALU being capable of executing instructions to perform simple scalar integer arithmetic and logical operations;
 - an integer shift unit (ISHU), the ISHU being capable of executing instructions to perform scalar bit shifting and rotating operations; and
 - a floating point unit (FPU), the FPU being capable of executing instructions to perform high precision scalar data processing.

50. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the vector processing unit comprises:
 - a vector permute unit (VPU), the VPU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector permute operations;
 - a vector simple integer unit (VSIU), the VSIU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector simple integer arithmetic and logical operations;
 - a vector complex integer unit (VCIU), the VCIU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector complex integer arithmetic operations;
 - a vector look-up table unit (VLUT), the VLUT being capable of executing instructions to perform at least one vector table look-up; and
 - a vector floating point unit (VFPU), the VFPU being capable of executing instructions to perform high precision vector data processing.
51. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the VLUT comprises a memory location storing at least one look-up table (LUT).
52. The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising means for transferring data of the LUT from the host memory to the memory location, through a direct memory access (DMA) operation.
53. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the scalar data processing and vector data processing are performed autonomously and asynchronously to the host processor.
54. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the scalar processing unit and the vector processing unit communicate with the host processor through an interrupt mechanism.

55. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the scalar processing unit and the vector processing unit are accessible by the host processing through a set of memory mapped addresses.
56. A machine readable medium having stored thereon executable code which causes a machine to perform a method, in an integrated circuit (IC) having a chip interconnect, of a data processing system having at least one host processor and a host memory, the method comprising:
 - receiving data stream from an input/output (I/O) interface coupled to the chip interconnect;
 - examining the data to determine whether the data require scalar data processing or vector data processing;
 - performing scalar data processing on the data in the IC, if the data require scalar data processing; and
 - performing vector data processing on the data in the IC, if the data require vector data processing.
57. The machine readable medium of claim 56, wherein the method further comprises:
 - a scalar processing unit coupled to the chip interconnect, the scalar processing unit performing scalar data processing on the data; and
 - a vector processing unit coupled to the chip interconnect, the vector processing unit performing vector data processing on the data.
58. The machine readable medium of claim 57, wherein the method further comprises multiple scalar processing units performing scalar data processing simultaneously and multiple vector processing units performing vector data processing simultaneously.

59. The machine readable medium of claim 57, wherein the method further comprises:
 dispatching the data to the scalar processing unit if the data require scalar data
 processing; and
 dispatching the data to the vector processing unit if the data require vector data
 processing.
60. The machine readable medium of claim 59, wherein the dispatching is performed by a
 switch mechanism coupled to the chip interconnect, the switch mechanism receiving the
 data from the I/O interface.
61. The machine readable medium of claim 60, wherein the switch mechanism comprises an
 instruction unit (IUNIT), the IUNIT being capable of decoding the data.
62. The machine readable medium of claim 56, wherein the method further comprises:
 a general purpose register (GPR) file coupled to the scalar processing unit;
 a vector register (VR) file coupled to the vector processing unit;
 a special purpose register (SPR) coupled to the chip interconnect; and
 a load and store unit (LSU), the LSU being capable of executing instructions to load
 and store scalar data from and to the GPR, and the LSU being capable of
 executing instructions to load and store vector data from and to the VR.
63. The machine readable medium of claim 62, wherein the method further comprises a
 memory location coupled to the chip interconnect, wherein the LSU loads and stores
 data from and to the memory location.

64. The machine readable medium of claim 63, wherein the method further comprises transferring the data between the memory location and the host memory, through a direct memory access (DMA) operation.
65. The machine readable medium of claim 56, wherein the scalar processing unit comprises:
 - an integer arithmetic and logic unit (IALU), the IALU being capable of executing instructions to perform simple scalar integer arithmetic and logical operations;
 - an integer shift unit (ISHU), the ISHU being capable of executing instructions to perform scalar bit shifting and rotating operations; and
 - a floating point unit (FPU), the FPU being capable of executing instructions to perform high precision scalar data processing.
66. The machine readable medium of claim 56, wherein the vector processing unit comprises:
 - a vector permute unit (VPU), the VPU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector permute operations;
 - a vector simple integer unit (VSIU), the VSIU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector simple integer arithmetic and logical operations;
 - a vector complex integer unit (VCIU), the VCIU being capable of executing instructions to perform vector complex integer arithmetic operations;
 - a vector look-up table unit (VLUT), the VLUT being capable of executing instructions to perform at least one vector table look-up; and
 - a vector floating point unit (VFPU), the VFPU being capable of executing instructions to perform high precision vector data processing.

67. The machine readable medium of claim 66, wherein the VLUT comprises a memory location storing at least one look-up table (LUT).
68. The machine readable medium of claim 67, wherein the method further comprises transferring data of the LUT from the host memory to the memory location, through a direct memory access (DMA) operation.
69. The machine readable medium of claim 56, wherein the scalar data processing and vector data processing are performed autonomously and asynchronously to the host processor.
70. The machine readable medium of claim 57, wherein the scalar processing unit and the vector processing unit communicate with the host processor through an interrupt mechanism.
71. The machine readable medium of claim 57, wherein the scalar processing unit and the vector processing unit are accessible by the host processing through a set of memory mapped addresses.